To know your anſwere, whether you'l admit him.

Duke. With all my heart; ſome three or foure of you
Goe giue him courteous conduct to this place,
Meane time the Court ſhall heare *Bellarios* Letter.

Your Grace ſhall vnderſtand, that at the receite of your Letter I am very ſicke; but in the inſtant that your Meſſenger came, in louing viſitation was with me a young Doctor of Rome, his name is Balthazer: I acquainted him with the cauſe in controuerſie betweene the Iew and Anthonio the Merchant; we turned ore many Bookes together, hee is furniſhed with my opinion, which bettred with his owne learning, the greatneſſe whereof I cannot enough commend, comes with him at my importunity, to fill vp your Graces requeſt in my ſtead. I beſeech you, let his lacke of years be no impediment to let him lacke a reuerend eſtimation, for I neuer knew ſo young a body with ſo olde a head: I leaue him to your gracious acceptance, whoſe triall ſhall better publiſh his commendation.

Enter Portia for Balthazer.

Duke. You heare the learn'd *Bellario* what he writes,
And heere I take it is the Doctor come.
Giue me your hand, come you from old *Bellario*?

Por. I did my Lord.

Duke. You are welcome, take your place:
Are you acquainted with the difference
That holds this preſent queſtion in the Court.

Por. I am enformed throughly of the cauſe:
Which is the Merchant heere? and which the Iew?

Duke. *Anthonio* and olde *Shylocke*, both ſtand foorth.

Por. Is your name *Shylocke*?

Iew. *Shylocke* is my name.

Por. Of a ſtrange nature is the ſute you follow,
Yet in ſuch rule, that the Venetian law
Cannot impunge you as you do proceed.
You ſtand within his danger, doe ye not?

Ant. I, ſo he ſayes.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Merchant of Venice* (STC 22297) LONDON, 1600 [1619] THE BOD